150-317-1100

Agent Exclusion

(1) “Agent” means a person who is acting on behalf of another, and is subject to that other person’s control.

(2) All facts and circumstances must be considered to determine if a person is an agent.

(3) An agent may exclude the fair market value of property, money and other amounts from their commercial activity only to the extent the property, money and other amounts are received or acquired on behalf of the person who controls the agent.

(4) An agent must include the agent’s fee, commission or remuneration in the agent’s commercial activity. An agent’s commercial activity includes any property, money and other amounts that an agent retains from the property, money and other amounts received on behalf of the principal to pay the agent’s commission, fee or remuneration.

(5) Examples.

Example 1: On June 30, 2020, York Escrow Company agrees to hold $60,000 for a real estate down payment on behalf of Mr. Thomas. Mr. Thomas has the ability to direct payment of the real estate down payment. York Escrow Company charges Mr. Thomas a three percent fee ($1,800) for the escrow services. York Escrow Company does not include the $60,000 real estate down payment in its commercial activity. However, York Escrow Company must include the $1,800 fee in its commercial activity.

Example 2: On January 1, 2020, Rothko Piano Company (an accrual basis taxpayer) agrees to renovate a concert piano for Mr. Smith. It is intended that the renovated piano will be used for concerts. Mr. Smith retains control of all aspects of the renovation project. Mr. Smith provides a piano with a fair market value of $10 million to Rothko Piano. The renovation period is nine months. Rothko Piano charges a fee
PURPOSE: Provides guidance to assist taxpayers in determining whether they are acting as an agent for purposes of the exclusion provided by Oregon Laws 2019, chapter 122, section 58(1)(b)(M), as amended by Oregon Laws 2019, chapter 579, section 50 of the Corporate Activity Tax (CAT).

Example 3: Human Resource Services, Inc. (HRS) provides payroll, human resources, and benefits services for small businesses for a fee. As part of its services provided to small businesses, HRS processes employee payroll; assists the businesses with hiring and firing, FMLA and OFLA regulations; and manages employee insurance benefits. The small businesses pay HRS fees for its services in a lump sum with the amounts due the small businesses’ employees for wages earned. HRS does not include in its commercial activity the amount it is holding for the benefit of the small businesses’ employees, but it must include in its commercial activity the fees small businesses pay HRS for its services.

Example 4: Assume the same facts as Example 3, except that HRS has a contractual obligation with each small business to pay the small business’s employees according to the small business’s payroll schedule (e.g. weekly, bi-weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly) and is reimbursed by the small business for the amount of wages that HRS paid the small business’s employees. The reimbursement amounts paid to HRS for wages that HRS paid the small business’s employees on behalf of the business is not includible in HRS’s commercial activity.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 305.100, Oregon Laws 2019, chapter 122, section 72
Stats. Implemented: Oregon Laws 2019, chapter 122, section 58, as amended by Oregon Laws 2019, chapter 579, section 50